



Vodafone views on Rel-17

Source: Vodafone



Evolving Release 15 and 16 functionality



- Customer experience, energy consumption, and cost reduction continue to be key issues for network deployments
- Flexibility in the workplan required to add potential new objectives to address NR/5GC deployment issues identified only after Release 17 has started
- Option 5 architecture: New 5GC features should be applied also for LTE ng-eNB
- SON/MDT/ML: We believe that there is scope to evolve support for this further
- IAB is attractive, but further enhancements beyond Rel-16 should be justified



- Functional stability in areas such as V2X, Industrial IoT/NPN are important to drive customer growth
- Likely that enhancements are needed, but should consider the above when deciding where to focus effort



Some suggested new enablers for NB-IoT and NR



- NB-IoT support for “small” wearables and implanted devices, e.g. for healthcare
- Very small device form-factor → sub-10 dBm max Tx power requirement
- Uplink relaying could improve device battery life
- Avoid changes to the NB-IoT device baseband design (licensed band focus)



- Medium capability NR device (higher than LPWA and lower than NR smartphones), e.g. for video transfer from security cameras in factories and cities – any layer 1 design changes should really be very well justified



- NR basic enhancements for drones, but only if limited to what has been done for LTE.
- Would like to see the market need develop before evolving too much



